

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Date: 20th April 2021

Title: Car Free Day 2021

Contact Officer: Communications and Community Engagement Officer -Polly Inness

Background

To provide a brief update on plans for Car Free Day 2021.

Current Situation

This report is intended to inform Councillors of plans for Car Free day on Wednesday 22nd September 2021, COVID-19 permitting, for which a budget of £1000 has been agreed.

At the Stronger Communities committee meeting of 25th January 2021 Councillors agreed the following recommendations:

SC37

that a Car Free Day is held as per last year, but road closures not applied for subject to Covid-19 road closures still being in place;

that the Communications and Events Officer contacts the Windrush Bike Project and Cycling Without Age be invited to participate in car free day.

Additional Activities

The 1863 bar and café is likely to want to make use of the space licensed to the Corn Exchange to operate on that day and the chip shop also has a licensed area, but there is room for other activities to take place elsewhere on the Market Square as there is no market on that day. Windrush Bike Project and Cycling Without Age may need some space, but there is also the potential to use the pavement to chalk out some interactive pavement selfies (as per the illustrations attached) and perhaps some pavement games such as hopscotch or an activity game. Chalked games will of course remove easily with a brush and or water but will not be practical if it rains and may need to be confined to land that belongs to Witney Town Council, such as the thoroughfare that leads alongside the Corn Exchange.

It would be nice for the drawings to be as good quality looking as possible. We could ask if art students from Henry Box or Abingdon and Witney College would like to help with a few of these.

We could also contact Martin from Oxfordshire Play Association to see if they would like any involvement in the day. It is an ideal opportunity for them to bring some stalls or activities such as the smoothie maker bike.

Our first step should be, as a courtesy, to ask permission to use the square from both WODC and OCC.

Environmental impact

Having declared a Climate Change Emergency at its Council meeting on 26 June 2019 – with this in mind Councillors should have due regard to the environmental impact of any decisions they make with regard to its facilities and services it operates.

Risk

In decision making Councillors should give consideration to any risks to the Council and any action it can take to limit or negate its liability.

Financial implications

There may be a charge if Oxfordshire Play Association bring any stalls or equipment and some pavement chinks or spray chalk will be required.

Recommendations

Members are invited to note the report and consider the following:

1. What activities would councillors like to see in the Market Square area?